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REMARKS

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Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-3 and 6-29 were pending in the application. Now claims 1, 6, 10, 13, 14, 24 and 25 have been amended, and claims 12, 22 and 23 have been deleted. Claims 6 and 10 have been amended for consistency with amended claim 1, while claims 13, 14, 24 and 25 have been amended only in their dependencies.

No new matter has been added. The amendments made to claim 1 are supported by that disclosed both in the claims and in the description.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-3, 6-13, 16-21 and 26-29 were rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reil in view of Traczyk. Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reil and Traczyk and further in view of Ammons. Finally, claims 22-25 were rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reil and Traczyk and further in view of Mogard.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to overcome the rejections under U.S.C. 103(a), claim 1 has been amended to include limitations from claims 6, 10, 12, 22, 23 and 24 to better distinguish the claimed invention. In particular, Applicant has added other features to the claimed system for manufacturing containers, including a finishing device positioned between a tensioning device and a traction device. The finishing device operates directly on the advancing strip, in particular on a free lateral edge of the forming strip material, called a bonding edge, along which a sealing or welding operation is performed to establish the shape of the resulting container. This finishing device is placed between the tensioning

device, which subjects the segment of forming material extending downstream of the selfsame device to a predetermined longitudinal tension, in order to facilitate certain operations carried out along the first leg (for example, the operation carried out by the finishing device), and the traction device placed just before the scoring station.

Neither Reil nor Traczyk (nor Mogard) disclose the presence of a finishing device positioned between a tensioning device and a traction device.

The item considered by the Examiner considered as a "tensioning device (4a, 4b)" is only, as a matter of fact, a direction reversing roller. In particular, the Examiner indicates the upper direction reversing roller 4a and the bottom direction reversing roller 4b as the tensioning device (page 5, par. 2). In fact, these direction reversing rollers cannot put the strip in tension. Indeed, between the upper and the bottom direction reversing rollers there is a buffer loop 4 of paper web which "allows the supply roll 1 to rotate continuously if, for example, the first direction reversing roller 3 provides for continuous draw-off of web 2 from the roll 1 while in the region 5, the paper web performs an intermittent movement." (Reil, col. 7, lines 48-52). Therefore, the two rollers 4a and 4b are simply two elements over or around which the strip passes. There is no tensioning device in Reil but only a sort of expansion area which absorbs or contains the excessive and continuous unwinding of the paper web.

Therefore, the cited combination of Reil/Traczyk/Mogard fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 1, as required to sustain an obviousness rejection.

None of the other cited art, either alone or in combination, resolves the deficiencies of this combination with respect to amended claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be in allowable condition and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Since claims 2-3, 6-11, 13-21, 24-29 depend from claim 1, they are believed to be in allowable condition for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the further limitations contained therein.

Thus, it is respectfully requested that the remaining rejections of such claims be withdrawn as well.

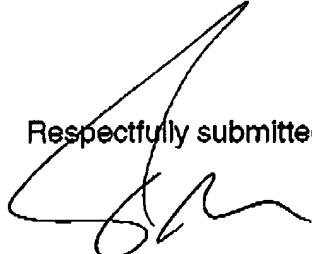
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Conclusion

All matters having been addressed above and in view of the pending claims and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiners reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Applicant's counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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